



## **Press Release**

### **National Labor Relations Board**

#### **Office of the General Counsel**

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### **NLRB Approves Settlements in St. Louis Casino Cases**

A casino operator has agreed to recognize the union representing about 560 employees at two of its St. Louis casinos, to restore full union wages and health benefits, and to offer reinstatement to discharged employees, according to terms of a settlement approved by the NLRB this week.

Casino One Corporation, doing business as Lumiere Place Casino & Hotels and the President Riverboat Casino, also agreed to resume bargaining with the union, UNITE HERE Local 74. At the Lumiere, which employs about 500 union members, the parties have not yet reached a first contract despite the employer's recognition of the union a year ago. The President Riverboat, which employs about 60 union members, has announced it is closing.

"This settlement gives the union the opportunity to engage in meaningful bargaining over the effects of the closure on the employees it represents," said NLRB Acting Regional Director Donald E. Gardiner, who approved the settlement on Tuesday. The settlement averts a trial that had been scheduled for next week before an NLRB Administrative Law Judge.

The two casinos withdrew union recognition in May 2009, after Local 74 broke away from the UNITE HERE International Union during an internal union disagreement. Five months later, Local 74 re-affiliated with UNITE HERE, however the Lumiere and President Casinos still refused to recognize or bargain with the union.

The union filed charges, and after an investigation found merit, the Acting Regional Director issued complaints alleging that the casinos had violated the National Labor Relations Act by withdrawing union recognition and imposing new terms and conditions of employment, including changes to health insurance rates and benefits, 401 (k) benefits, and work rules.

The employers have agreed to rescind all such changes, to reinstate any employees who were terminated as a result of the changes, and to make employees whole for the loss of wages and benefits they suffered as a result. In doing so, they admit no wrongdoing.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions. The NLRB's Office of the General Counsel has independent prosecutorial discretion under the National Labor Relations Act to issue complaints alleging such unfair labor practices.

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